
SFY 2012 Regional Funding Plan

Gila River Indian
Community Regional
Partnership Council

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First Things First State Board
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FIRST THINGS FIRST

**GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL
FUNDING PLAN SFY 2012
July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012**

- I. Regional Allocation Summary (Funds Available)**
- II. Prior Years' Review, and Planning for SFY 2012**
 - A. Progress with SFY 2010 and SFY 2011 Funding Plans; And SFY 2012 Planning
 - B. Budget: Regional Council Strategy Allotments
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New Strategy Worksheet

Section I

Regional Allocation Summary

The following chart shows the total available funds to the Regional Council, by funding sources.

Allocations and Funding Sources	SFY 2010	SFY 2011	SFY 2012
Population Based Allocation	\$510,403.00	\$628,761.00	\$628,063.00
Discretionary Allocation	\$131,638.00	\$155,762.00	\$234,441.00
Other (FTF fund balance addition)		\$137,846.73	\$99,295.98
Additional Income (other than FTF tobacco tax)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Carry Forward from Previous Year		\$186,518.14	\$184,672.01
Total Regional Council Funds Available	\$642,041.00	\$1,108,887.87	\$1,146,471.99

Section II Prior Years' Review, and Planning for SFY 2012

For 2012 planning, Regional Councils are asked to review the strategies from years prior while they consider direction for SFY 2012. At their September 2010 meeting, the First Things First Board adopted priorities as were recommended by the Arizona Early Childhood Task Force. Following is the list of five priorities for First Things First action within the next one to three years. These are the roles for which FTF will establish measurable benchmarks and devote resources in order to achieve results for Arizona's young children and their families. These priorities are services which could be funded at both state and regional levels. Throughout this 2012 Regional Funding Plan, there are references to these new priorities. They are:

Quality, Access, and Affordability of Regulated Early Care and Education Settings - Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for increased availability of and access to high quality, regulated, culturally responsive, and affordable early care and education programs.

Supports and Services for Families - Convene partners, provide leadership, provide funding, and advocate for development, enhancement, and sustainability of a variety of high quality, culturally responsive, and affordable services, supports, and community resources for young children and their families.

Building Public Awareness and Support - Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for efforts to increase public awareness of and support for early childhood development, health, and early education among partners, public officials, policy makers, and the public.

Professional Development System - Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for the development and enhancement of an early childhood professional development system that addresses availability, accessibility, affordability, quality, and articulation.

Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Services - Collaborate with partners to increase access to high quality health care services (including oral health and mental health) and affordable health care coverage for young children and their families.

In addition, the Task Force recommended that FTF take a leadership role in three priorities that focus on program and process development at the state level. These are:

Early Childhood System Funding – Secure, coordinate, and advocate for resources required to develop and sustain the early childhood system. [This does not mean that FTF would be the sole funder of the early childhood system, but would take an active role in helping to increase and coordinate available resources.]

Early Care and Education System Development and Implementation - Convene partners and provide leadership in the development and implementation of a comprehensive early care and education system that is aligned both across the spectrum of settings and with the full continuum of the educational system.

Quality Early Care and Education Standards, Curriculum, and Assessment - Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for the development and implementation of quality standards for early childhood care and education programs and related curricula and assessments. [This is integral to improving the quality of early care and education settings.]

Section II A Progress with SFY 2010 and 2011 Funding Plans And SFY 2012 Planning

The table below provides a summary of the Regional Partnership Council's prioritized needs and strategies for SFY 2012, as well as information on progress in SFY 2010 and SFY 2011.

PRIORITY NEED 1: Lack of family support services including parent education, preventive health, dental, vision, hearing services; early literacy, targeting families with children birth through five.						
Description: Through the region's Needs and Assets Report process, the Regional Council found a need to wrap services around families having different levels of need. Therefore, comprehensive family education and support services which include home visitation, teen parent education and case management, center-based native language early literacy programming, and support for families facing food insecurities will continue to be supported by the Council						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 2000- 2009 the region's population grew by 79 percent. Births to teenage mothers are higher than the State average. Language and culture preservation is a high priority for the Community, therefore native language early literacy programs are strongly supported by the Tribal government. Unemployment rate in the Community is higher than the State average. 						
Strategy: Home Visitation						
Regional Title and/or short description: Provide home visitation to families with children birth through five years of age, including at risk prenatal families.						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Families receiving home visiting services	100	50	53	90	90	90
Strategy: Parent Education Community-Based Training						
Regional Title and/or short description: Teen Parent Education and Case Management: Case management/coordination and parenting classes for at-risk populations. Specifically the Regional Council will support high risk children and families within the Residential Treatment Center, Ira Hays High School, and Vechij Himdag Mashchamakud (VHM) High School through parent education and case management. This strategy expands capacity of existing parent education programs within the region.						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Adults attending sessions	30	30	*180	30	35	30
*Indicates duplicated numbers.						

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Strategy: Native Language Enrichment						
Regional Title and/or short description: Native Language Early Literacy: This strategy expands the capacity of Akimel O’odham, and Pee Posh Early Language and Literacy coaches to work with children, child care providers, parents, and elders in childcare and community centers to enhance language and literacy development.						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Providers receiving professional development in culturally appropriate early literacy practices	20	**N/A	*222	20	20	20
Families attending culturally appropriate family literacy trainings or workshops	202	200	160	206	200	200
Children attending culturally appropriate family literacy trainings or literacy workshops	202	206	*609	306	206	206
Culturally appropriate books distributed		**N/A			**N/A	
* Indicates duplicated numbers. ** This information was not collected.						
Strategy: Food Security						
Regional Title and/or short description: Food Assistance and Nutrition: Regional Council will support families facing food insecurity through increased access to adequate nutrition for families with young children. Due to the continuing economic conditions faced by both the State and the Gila River Indian Community the number of families with young children facing food insecurity continues to rise. The current economic crisis has forced many families in the region to seek the help of local food agencies.						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Food boxes distributed	183	**460	121	250	*0	250
* Contract not currently in place. ** Collected number of children receiving food not numbers of boxes.						

Summary of Progress and Challenges
Rationale for Changes to SFY12
Alignment with Strategic Direction

1. Strategy Success

The Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council has implemented four strategies to address the prioritized need for family support in the region. Home visitation and teen parent education strategies are focused on improving parent knowledge. Gila River's third strategy focuses on increasing native language early literacy in early care settings and Gila River's fourth strategy focuses on supporting families and children facing food insecurity. Strategies were evaluated based on whether they addressed the needs found in the 2010 Regional Needs and Assets Report. The family support strategies put forth by the Gila River Regional Partnership Council have directly impacted over 500 families in the region. Additionally, coordination and collaboration efforts led by FTF grantees have increased the quality of services families receive from family support agencies across the region.

The Council's overall target goal was to serve approximately 30 percent of families needing home visitation service by the year 2013. To that end, a strong collaboration between many family support and home visitation agencies has been established within the region. Through continuous collaboration by the region's FTF funded home visitation grantees as well as other home visitation programs it has been found that approximately 50 percent of the region's young children living in poverty are currently served by some type of home visitation program, which exceeds the Council's goal in this area. To date the Regional Council is pleased with the progress of their family support strategies.

- Home Visitation- The region's home visitation strategy is expected to fill all 90 available slots by the end of SFY 2011. By close of SFY 2010, all children participating in the home visitation program had been screened, and as needed, referrals given. Caseloads continue to be within best practice guidelines. Per the Council's direction, and as part of the regions Needs and Assets findings, home visitation programs are working to increase the coordination of support services for grandparents caring for young children. Building on collaboration efforts, coordination of services will continue in the coming year, which will allow programs to expand capacity, reduce duplication of services, and establish Memorandums of Understanding enabling programs to share participant information.
- Teen Parent Education and Case Management- The teen parent education strategy has met target service number numbers and has been a highly performing strategy. This strategy has spearheaded coordination of comprehensive family support services for teen parents and grandparents in the region. Teen parents seem to be engaged and enjoy being a part of the teen parent education and case management program.
- Native Language Early Literacy- The region's native language early literacy strategy has been successful on a smaller level than originally anticipated. It was the intent of the Regional Council to ensure that all children enrolled in early care settings receive high quality native language enrichment. At this time, FTF funded native language early literacy programs are reaching about half of the children in early care settings.

2. Strategy Challenges

- Food security has been Gila River's most challenging family support strategy due to lack of local capacity. In SFY 2010, 183 food boxes were targeted to be delivered in the Gila River region. Only 121 boxes were delivered. The strategy had strong regional faith based, and social services support, but lacked a food box distribution site within the region. The grantee was not located within the region and was unprepared for logistics and delivery.

The SFY 2011 food security allotment has not yet been awarded. It was found that the region lacked capacity to coordinate and report on food box delivery. Additionally, logistical issues regarding storage, delivery and the boxing of food were encountered. Local agencies/programs expressed interest but were concerned about Tribal and First Things First reporting requirements. Most concerns have been addressed, proper Tribal procedures have been followed and the strategy is moving forward. Due to the planning process, this strategy will be implemented in the Spring of 2011.

- Home Visitation- It is believed that this strategy area could continue to benefit from additional support around regional service coordination.
- Teen Parent Education and Case Management- Barriers continue around child care for teen parents, due to lack of early care within the region.
- Native Language Early Literacy- In SFY 2011, 59 percent of the allotment to the native language early literacy strategy was awarded leaving approximately 41 percent unspent. It was found that there was a lack of capacity within the Community to expand this strategy.

3. Strategy Changes for 2012

The Regional Council has elected to reduce the allotment to the Native Language Early Literacy strategy for SFY 2012 to allow funding to go towards expanding pre-k slots in school based pre-k programs within the region.

4. First Things First Priorities

All four of Gila River's Family Support strategies are aligned with the First Things First Priority Supports and Services for Families including:

- Supports Services for Families - by convening partners, providing leadership, advocating for development, enhancement, and sustainability of a variety of high quality, culturally responsive, and affordable services, supports, and community resources for young children and their families.
- Families who want or need assistance have access to a continuum of services, supports, and resources in their communities to increase their competence and confidence to ensure their children enter school healthy and ready to succeed.
- More families have access to the knowledge, skills, and culturally appropriate resources to assist their children with emergent literacy and language development.
- Family services and supports that lead to effective parenting are delivered in accordance with standards of practice.
- Family services and supports are planned, developed, funded, and delivered in a coordinated manner that best meets the needs and preferences of families and leverages available resources.

PRIORITY NEED 2 : Limited access to affordable, quality early care and education opportunities for young children in the Gila River Indian Community						
<p>Description of prioritized need: Access to high quality early care and education programs.</p> <p>The region's Needs and Assets Report revealed the need to support access to high quality early care and education programs. Within the region regulated child care is lacking and there is a need for additional funding to provide child care. Although the need for child care continues, the economic downturn has created a situation where Tribal and Federal funding to early care and education has been substantially reduced resulting in a reduction of early care slots. At this time all slots within the region are filled and there is a need to increase affordable quality child care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 2000- 2010 the region's population increased by 79 percent. • Currently the region's early care settings are serving 15 percent of the total population 0-5 years of age. This represents a 50 percent reduction from 2008. This reduction of early care slots is a direct result of center closure in the high need area of 85339 within the Gila River Indian Community. • Family, friends and neighbors care for approximately 85 percent of children ages 0-5 in the Community. 						
Strategy: Child Care Scholarships						
<p>Regional Title and/or short description:</p> <p>First Things First will support working families who are facing economic challenges by developing a scholarship program that will assist families in retaining their young children in their current early care and education programs at a reduced cost.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Five scholarship slots for teen parents attending local high schools. Scholarships provided to teen parents will provide high quality, stable early care for young children while teen parent(s) are completing high school. Twenty scholarships for children zero through five. 						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Children receiving scholarships	9	*N/A	9	25	25	25
* Statewide contract did not specify numbers at a regional level.						
Strategy: Expansion: Pre-K and Head Start						
<p>Regional Title and/or short description: Summer Transition to Kindergarten:</p> <p>Pre-Kindergarten Program—Expand early education and classroom experience for 4 and 5 year old children through the expansion of summer transition to kindergarten school based programs. This program provides preschool opportunities and screening services for families in the region that have been on waiting lists for child care.</p>						

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Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
FTF funded Pre-K students	52	60	65	75	*0	135
Public-school district or Bureau of Indian Affairs pre-k sites receiving support	2	2	2	2	*0	4
Private/ public community partner pre-k sites	Not part of regional strategy			Not part of regional strategy		
* For SFY 2011 a contract is not yet in place for this strategy.						
Strategy: Family Friend and Neighbor						
Regional Title and/or short description: Support outreach and training for home-based child care providers, including family, friend and neighbor child care providers to enhance quality and/or build capacity.						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Family, friend or neighbor providers served	Not a Regional Strategy in 2010			30	*0	30
* For SFY 2011 a contract is not in place for this strategy.						
Strategy: Expansion: Pre-K and Head Start						
Regional Title and/or short description: Expansion of pre-k slots to support school based pre-k programs throughout the region.						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
FTF funded Pre-K students	Not a Regional Strategy in 2010			Not a Regional Strategy in 2010		15
Public-school district or Bureau of Indian Affairs pre-k sites receiving support	Not a Regional Strategy in 2010			Not a Regional Strategy in 2010		1
Private/ public community partner pre-k sites	Not a Regional Strategy in 2010			Not a Regional Strategy in 2010		0

Summary of Progress and Challenges
Rationale for Changes to SFY12
Alignment with Strategic Direction

1. Strategy Success

The Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council has implemented two of four strategies to address the prioritized need for access to high quality early childhood programs for all children in the region. Two of the strategies focus on improving Quality, Access, and Affordability of regulated early care and education settings and have met or exceeded expectations. One strategy focuses on increasing services for family, friend, and neighbor providers but has yet to be implemented due to a Tribal approval process for outside vendors. A fourth strategy, expansion of pre-k slots, is new SFY 2012.

All of the strategies build on existing Tribal early care infrastructure and are supported by the Gila River Indian Community Tribal Council. The strategies also fall on the continuum of Quality, Access and Affordability, and serve families with diverse early care needs. Strategies were evaluated based on whether they addressed the needs found in the 2010 Regional Needs and Assets Report. An analysis of the report noted a reduction in the number of pre-k slots as well as a reduction in center based infant toddler care. Due to a 50 percent reduction in early care slots throughout the region, a significant number of children are now being cared for by family, friend or neighbors. Currently, only 15 percent of the region's children ages 0-5 are cared for in center-based early care settings. For this reason, the Regional Council has added expansion of school based pre-k slots to this year's funding plan.

Strategy implementation:

- Scholarships- In SFY 2011, the scholarship agreement is in place and all 20 Child Care Scholarships are being utilized by working families living within the region. All scholarships are provided through the Quality First center in the region. Families are grateful for the opportunity to have scholarships which provide high quality, stable and continuous child care. The Regional Partnership Council visited the Quality First center in the fall and was impressed by the quality of the center, including low child/adult ratios, staff education levels, and the native language program being implemented. In SFY 2012, the Regional Council voted to add an additional five scholarship slots to accommodate teen parents needing affordable quality care for their children so they can complete their high school education.
- Summer Transition to Kindergarten- Participation in the region's summer transition to kindergarten program exceeded expectations and was highly successful. The target service number for the strategy was sixty (60) children. Sixty-five preschool aged children gained access to high quality pre-kindergarten summer transition programs provided by 2 regional Bureau of Indian Education schools. All teachers and teachers' assistants were highly qualified and teacher to child ratios were low. All sixty-five children enrolled in the summer transition to kindergarten program received hearing, vision, and dental screenings through a collaboration with Gila River Indian Community's Hu Hu Kam Hospital. Parents also participated in the program through early literacy, nutrition, and "what to expect in kindergarten" workshops.

The Regional Council is encouraged by the development of this strategy and looks forward to bringing the strategy to scale by SFY 2013. It is expected that all four year olds entering kindergarten in SFY 2012 will have the opportunity to participate in a summer transition to kindergarten program. In SFY 2011, grantees have been selected for this strategy, and Board approval will be requested in January.

2. Strategy Challenges

Family Friend and Neighbor - Gila River's Family Friend and Neighbor strategy was added to the region's funding plan in SFY 2011. The region's Needs and Assets Report indicates there is a significant need to support families, friends and neighbors caring for young children. Of Gila River's four quality, access and affordability strategies, Family Friend and Neighbor has taken longer to implement because there are no tribal programs currently offering Kith and Kin type programming. The strategy is supported by all Tribal Committees within the Gila River Indian Community. It is anticipated that Tribal approvals of strategy implementation will be given in March of 2011. The Regional Partnership Council will then be able to move forward with this strategy. This strategy has required additional face to face work with community members as well as Tribal Council members, but is a necessary piece in the continuum of Quality Access and Affordability and will build capacity of early care providers who care for approximately 85 percent of the region's young children.

3. Strategy Changes for 2012

The Gila River Regional Partnership Council plans on continuing all of their current Quality Access and Affordability strategies from SFY 2011 into SFY 2012. The Regional council has added a new strategy expansion of pre-k slots to the SFY 2012 funding plan.

Changes to strategies are listed below:

New Strategy- Expansion of pre-k slots to support school based pre-k programs throughout the region. The Gila River Indian Community has seen a reduction of school based pre-k slots in 2010. Due to this reduction the Regional Council has decided to place pre-k expansion into their SFY 2012 funding plan.

- See attached strategy worksheet.

Funding increase – Child Care Scholarships:

- In SFY 2012 the Regional Council increased scholarships from 20 slots to 25 slots
- Of the 25 slots 5 slots will be reserved for children of teen parents attending local high schools in the region.
- Eligibility criteria expanded from 0-3 to 0-5 years olds.

Funding increase - Summer Transition to Kindergarten:

- In SFY 2012 the Regional Council increased funding to strategy in order to bring the program to scale across the region.

4. First Things First Priorities

Three of the strategies implemented by the Gila River Regional Partnership Council address the unique needs of the Gila River Indian Community and are aligned to the First Things First Priorities. Each strategy addresses Quality, Access, and Affordability within the region.

The continuum of Quality Access and Affordability strategies address the goal listed below:

- To increase the availability and access to high quality regulated culturally responsive and affordable early care and education programs.

Family Friend and Neighbor Support- While not recognized as a First Things First priority, the Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council would like to ask that the strategy be approved by the State Board. The 2010 Needs and Assets Report found that the region lacks capacity to serve all children needing center based early care. Due to the high unemployment rate and high cost of care, approximately 85 percent of children 0-5 years of age are cared for in Family Friend or Neighbor settings. All early care centers in the region are full and all have waiting lists. For these reasons, the Regional Council would like to continue to invest in strategies that enhance and support unregulated early care in the region, while at the same time, working toward expanding the capacity of early care programs. It is the Council's goal to encourage unregulated care providers move toward licensing and have a better understanding of the importance of early childhood development.

PRIORITY NEED 3: Lack of specialized practitioners within the region to met the health needs of young children.

Description :

In the Gila River region, there are a limited number of specialists in the early childhood development and health workforce to insure the healthy social-emotional development of young children. Access to specialty health care provided by developmental pediatricians is a challenge. Although Gila River Health Care offers a wide range of services to the region, a lack of developmental pediatrician providers exists, forcing families to travel outside the region for specialty care after screenings and referrals. Many families report feeling overwhelmed and powerless when navigating the greater health care system leading to a failure to follow through with appointments and to receive services. Families are faced with added challenges when coordinating health care services for children with complex health needs.

- Children with complicated health care needs must leave the community to receive specialized care.
- Do to the region's high unemployment many parents lack the resources to commute to other areas to see specialists for follow-up care.

Strategy: Recruitment – Stipends/Loan Forgiveness						
Regional Title and/or short description: Recruitment of developmental pediatrician who will work in collaboration with Gila River Health Care and Early Childhood Special Services to triage and coordinate care for children with specialized health needs.						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Therapists receiving loan forgiveness	Not part of regional strategy			Not part of regional strategy		
Therapists receiving stipends	1	*0	*0	1	*0	1
* A contract is not in place						
Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction						
1. Strategy Success See Strategy Challenges						
2. Strategy Challenges <p>Gila River's recruitment strategy was added to the region's funding plan in SFY 2010. The region's Needs and Assets Report indicates there is a need to support coordination of health care needs for young children. Implementation of this strategy has not occurred in order to coordinate and build onto the existing health care infrastructure within the region.</p> <p>The Gila River Health Care Corporation is a stand alone health care provider that processes and accepts third party billing and interfaces with Bureau of Indian Affairs, as well as other for-profit health care institutions. Gila River Health Care is the health care provider for the Gila River Indian and Ak'Chin Indian Communities. Gila River Health Care is working to provide a coordinated school health model to all children 0-18 years old within the Gila River Indian Community and the Regional Council believes a physician recruitment strategy will build on the model. Unfortunately, the coordinated school health project has been postponed for the time being. To that point the strategy will take additional time to implement.</p>						
3. Strategy Changes for 2012 <p>No changes anticipated for SFY 2012. The Regional Council would like to keep the strategy at current funding level.</p>						
4. First Things First Priorities <p>Gila River's recruitment strategy is aligned to the First Things First Priority Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Services. For young children to enter Kindergarten ready to learn, they must be healthy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early intervention plays a critical role in addressing the health needs of young children. Young 						

<p>children with high social-emotional awareness have an increased propensity to enter kindergarten healthy and ready to learn. In addition, it is imperative for young children with a developmental delay to receive appropriate services, particularly in the birth to three age range, which is one of the most critical time spans in brain development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy addresses support for development of the health system and access to quality health care coverage and services within the region. 						
PRIORITY NEED 4 : Lack of professional development opportunities for early childhood workforce						
<p>Description:</p> <p>In the Gila River Region there is a lack of access to quality professional development opportunities for early care and education professionals. Therefore the Regional Council will support professional development and education opportunities for early childhood staff, health professionals, family support professionals and parents. Highly qualified early care and education professionals are essential to providing high quality care and education. A range of strategies address continued education and incentives for professionals to increase their formal education and remain in the field.</p> <p>Findings from the key informant interviews and the region's Needs and Assets Report highlighted a need to support professional development opportunities in the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-third of early childhood programs lack funding to support teachers pursuing their CDA, and/or early childhood degree. • One-third of early childhood programs lack funding to support staff with needed continuing education credits offered through conferences. 						
Strategy: Scholarships T.E.A.C.H.						
Regional Title and/or short description: T.E.A.C.H. scholarships for early education professionals						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Professionals receiving scholarships	4	4	3	4	4	4
Strategy: Conference Scholarships (<i>FTF Directed</i>)						
Regional Title and/or short description: Conference scholarships for early childhood and health professionals as well as parents. The Regional Council wishes to increase knowledge and awareness about early childhood development and health issues by providing increased access to seminars and conferences within and across regions.						

Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Professionals receiving conference scholarships	Not a Regional Strategy in 2010			200	200	200
Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction						
1. Strategy Success						
<p>The Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council has implemented two strategies to address the prioritized need for Professional Development within the region. The strategies focus on improving skills and knowledge of the early childhood workforce. The region’s Professional Development strategies have met expectations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The first strategy focuses on building a skilled and well prepared workforce within the region through T.E.A.C.H. scholarships for child care providers. All four of the region’s T.E.A.C.H. slots are full and professional development coordination between the South Phoenix Regional Council and Gila River Regional Council have allowed for an additional four T.E.A.C.H. slots to be funded by the South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council. With the partnership between the South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council there are a total of eight (8) scholarships available to the region. <p>It is estimated that there are 44 teacher and 32 teachers assistants working in the region. Many programs within the region either provide teaching staff with opportunities to gain teaching credentials or require staff to have teaching credentials before hire. The Head Start Program provides staff with professional development opportunities through their federal budget. The Early Education Center within the region requires staff to possess an early childhood degree before hire. Therefore there are approximately 8 teachers and assistant teachers in other programs needing professional development support. Currently, T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship funding provided by the Gila River Indian Community and South Phoenix Regional Partnership Councils is impacting 100 percent of professionals needing professional development support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The region’s second strategy, conference scholarships, is also meeting expectations within the region. The aim of conference scholarships is to increase knowledge and awareness about early childhood development and health by providing early childhood professionals, health professionals, and parents with increased access to seminars and conferences within and across regions. Through the conference strategy early childhood tracks have been added to annual regional conferences and for the first time an infant toddler mental health conference was held within the Community. The infant toddler mental health conference was made possible through partnerships between Gila River Health Care, New Directions Brain Institute, and the Harris Institute. Attendance for the conference was cross-regional, and included 31 health and family						

<p>support professionals from both Gila River and Salt River Indian Communities.</p> <p>After six months of conference scholarship implementation, the Regional Council decided to reduce funding to this strategy by 18 percent in SFY 2012. It was found the strategy did not need to be funded at SFY 2010 levels to meet target numbers.</p>
<p>2. Strategy Challenges</p> <p>None</p>
<p>3. Strategy Changes for 2012</p> <p>After initial strategy implementation it was found the strategy did not need to be funded at the SFY 2010 allotment to meet target numbers. The Regional Council has elected to reduce funding to the conference strategy by 18 percent.</p>
<p>4. First Things First Priorities</p> <p>All of Gila River's Professional Development strategies are aligned with the First Things First Priority Supports for professionals including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More early care and education professionals have access to ongoing education and training to meet their professional development requirements and goals across Arizona. • More early childhood care and education professionals across Arizona have degrees and/or credentials in early care and education. <p>Each of the strategies under Professional Development are designed to promote a highly skilled and well prepared early childhood development and health workforce in the region.</p>
<p>PRIORITY NEED 5 : Community Coordination and Capacity Development</p> <p>Description:</p> <p>Community coordination and capacity development is a newly created strategy spearheaded by the Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council. Outcomes to be achieved include the guiding principle that all families have the information, services and support they need to help their children achieve their fullest potential. The strategy is under development at the Regional Council level and will not be presented to the Board for approval in the 2012 funding plan, but will remain as a placeholder without funding until the strategy can be developed.</p> <p>The Regional Council would like to develop coordinated partnerships with community stakeholders to build capacity directly related to the well-being of health, development and/or education of young children within the region.</p> <p>Findings from the Needs and Assets report highlight a need for supporting coordination and collaboration of family support and quality and assess strategies within the regions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A myriad of Family Support programs exist within region including Home Visitation models - Early Head Start, Head Start, Family and Child Education, Baby Smarts, Building Blocks for Healthy Children, Early Intervention Home Visitation. These programs combined serve a large proportion

of the 0-5 population but lack coordination and collaboration of services.						
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Duplication of services provided to families is evidenced by families receiving home visitation services from two or more programs.• Repetition of paperwork when families are case managed by two or more family support programs has been identified. There is a clear need for increased communication and collaboration between family support programs.						
Strategy: Service Coordination						
Regional Title and/or short description Service Coordination Routinely coordinate and collaborate with programs supporting young children to enhance the coordination and communication of services, programs, and resources for young children and their families within the region. Establish and implement a coordination plan.						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Not yet proposed	Not a Regional Strategy in 2010			Not a Regional Strategy in 2011		Not yet proposed
Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction						
1. Strategy Success This strategy is new to Gila River for SFY 2012 and requires further development. This strategy will not be presented to the State Board for approval.						
2. Strategy Challenges N/A						
3. Strategy Changes for 2012 Strategy under development						
4. First Things First Priorities New strategy under development						
PRIORITY NEED #6: Lack of Understanding and Recognition of the Importance of Early Childhood Health, Development and Education						
Description of prioritized need: Increase community knowledge and awareness on the significant importance of early childhood health, development and education.						
Strategy: Community Awareness (FTF Directed)						
Regional Title and/or short description: Work in partnership with local newsprint and web based media outlets to implement a community awareness campaign which builds public knowledge around early childhood development and health through monthly publications and articles.						

Strategy: Media
Regional Title and/or short description: Cross-Regional Communications Partnership: Work in partnership with First Things First Communications and the First Things First Board to implement a community awareness and mobilization campaign to build the public and political will necessary to make early childhood development and health one of Arizona's top priorities.
Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction
1. Strategy Success <p>Gila River Regional Partnership Council has chosen two strategies to address the lack of knowledge around early childhood development and health issues. The first strategy addresses the regional need for increasing early childhood knowledge that is culturally competent and meaningful to the region. The second strategy addresses community awareness at a state-wide level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Awareness- the Regional Partnership Council will continue to implement a regional communications campaign focused around utilization of local newsprint media. The Regional Council will run a series of 12 full page newspaper and Internet articles yearly which dedicates one full page each month highlighting early childhood within the region. Public service announcements, best practice early childhood development programs, and regional resources are all a part of the monthly article. Media/Advertising- The Gila River Regional Partnership will partner with all regions to implement a statewide communications plan in SFY 2012.
2. Strategy Challenges <p>None</p>
3. Strategy Changes for 2012 <p>The Gila River Regional Partnership Council will continue to implement all components of their Community Awareness plan.</p> <p>Funding increase- Community Awareness: To pay for 12 full page articles in local paper Funding increase- Media/Advertising: To fund statewide communications plan.</p>
4. First Things First Priorities <p>Gila River's community awareness strategies align with the First Things First Priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building Public Awareness and Support by helping educate the public of the benefits of investing in early childhood development, health and early education and supporting the identification and growth of a pool of early childhood champions throughout the region.

Priority Need 7 - Regional Needs and Assets
Strategy: Regional Needs and Assets
<p>Short Description</p> <p>The Gila River Regional Partnership Council's original 2008 Needs and Assets Report was a baseline report and in subsequent years the Regional Council would like to enrich the report with additional region specific data. Therefore, the Gila River Regional Partnership Council has added funding to the Regional Needs and Assets Report to provide extra hours for data analysis in hopes of receiving a more comprehensive report. The process of improving the Council's Regional Needs and Assets Report will take time due to additional Tribal procedures that the Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council must adhere to.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction</p>
<p>1. Strategy Success</p> <p>The Regional Needs and Assets process was very successful after the selection of a second vendor. The Regional Council found the manner of vendor selection easy to understand and enjoyed the process. The information contained within the report was meaningful and aided in development of the SFY 2012 funding plan. The wealth of information contained in the needs and assets report will also be used by Tribal family support, early care education, and schools to help pull down federal funding.</p> <p>The region has never had a full and holistic report on the status of all children 0-5 years old in the Gila River Indian Community. This report is therefore exceedingly valuable to the Gila River Indian Community as well as the state of Arizona. The fact that the report has been completed with Tribal Council approval and released to the public shows a high level of trust and partnership on behalf of the Gila River Indian Community Tribal Council and First Things First.</p>
<p>2. Strategy Challenges</p> <p>The 2010 Regional Needs and Assets process presented some challenges. The biggest challenge was due to the delay in procuring vendors which ultimately delayed the start of the work. In Tribal Regions, a delay in procuring a vendor can greatly delay the needs and assets report delivery due to a Tribal process which must be done before data collection can begin.</p> <p>Access to data from other state agencies and organizations remains a challenge. This goal area could benefit from additional support around statewide data collection collaboration.</p>
<p>3. Strategy Changes for 2012</p> <p>The Regional Council has approved a slight increase in funding to provide for extra time for the vendor to analyze data.</p>

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL
Regional Funding Plan SFY 2012

Section II B Budget: Regional Council Strategy Allotments

Date: January 10, 2011

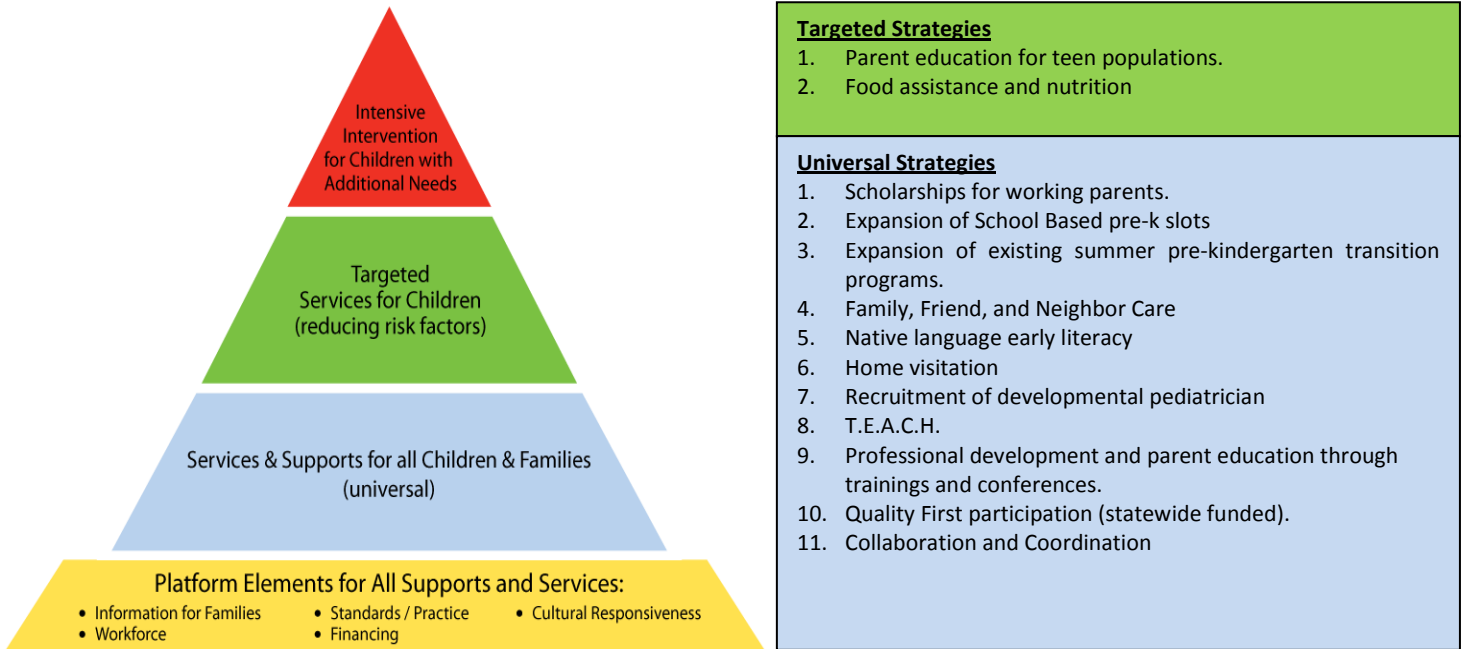
Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council Operational Plan Funding Summary					2012 Proposed Allotments
	2010		2011		2012
FY Allocation	\$642,041.00		\$922,369.73		\$961,799.98
Carry Forward From Previous Year	na		\$186,518.14		\$184,672.01
Total Funds Available	\$642,041.00		\$1,108,887.87		\$1,146,471.99
Strategies	Allotted	Expended	Allotted	Awarded	Proposed
Home Visitation	\$178,016.00	\$158,765.54	\$328,016.00	\$328,016.00	\$328,016
Parent Education Community-Based Training	\$91,500.00	\$43,833.00	\$100,650.00	\$100,650.00	\$100,650
Native Language Enrichment	\$62,539.00	\$62,313.61	\$109,355.00	\$62,539.00	\$62,539
Food Insecurity	\$4,843.00	\$2,314.69	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000
Child Care Scholarships	\$203,796.00	\$126,796.00	\$145,931.00	\$125,931.00	\$165,931
Expansion: Pre-K and Head Start (summer transition)	\$51,281.00	\$53,013.58	\$64,281.00	\$0.00	\$115,652
Family, Friends & Neighbors	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$50,000
Expansion School Based Pre-K Slots	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100,000
Recruitment – Stipends/Loan Forgiveness (Developmental pediatrician)	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$14,600.00	\$0.00	\$14,600
Scholarships TEACH	\$12,720.00	\$8,020.75	\$13,992.00	\$13,992.00	\$13,992
Conference Scholarships (FTF Directed)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	\$3,250.00	\$16,000
Coordination	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0
Communications	\$2,812.00	\$465.69	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0
Community Outreach	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0
Community Awareness (FTF Directed)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00	\$2,100
Media	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$712.00	\$214.00	\$3,900
Needs and Assets	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,387.00	\$5,512.00	\$5,000
Expansion: Increase Infant/Toddler (one time funding)	\$13,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0
Arizona Health Survey	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,812.68	\$1,812.68	\$0
Child Care Study	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,614.70	\$4,614.70	\$0
Children's Budget	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$434.22	\$434.22	\$0
Evaluation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$45,100.26	\$45,100.00	\$0
Parent Kits - Study	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,230.00	\$0.00	\$0
2012 Evaluation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$57,474
Total	\$631,507.00	\$455,522.86	\$924,215.86	\$694,165.60	\$1,045,854
Carry Forward to Following Year		\$186,518.14	\$184,672.01		\$100,618

Section II C Provide information about changes in funding level for strategies from 2011 to 2012

Strategy Name	Previous Funding Amount (SFY 2011)	New Funding Amount (SFY 2012)	Rationale for Change in Funding
Family Support: Native Language Enrichment	\$109,355	\$62,539	After year two implementation, funding level for this strategy will be reduced. Reduction of 41percent from SFY 2011 to SFY 2012.
Quality and Access: Pre-K Expansion - Summer Transition to Kindergarten	\$64,281	\$115,652	This strategy increased by 80 percent to increase service numbers by expanding summer program from: FYS 2011: 5 classrooms FYS 2012: 9 classrooms Serving an additional 68 children.
Quality and Access: Scholarships for children 0-5 years old	\$125,931 (\$145,931) increase request to Board January 25, 2011	\$165,931	Scholarship strategy increased by 13.7 percent to increase service numbers from 20 to 25 children. The additional five scholarship slots will be used to provide scholarships to teen parents attending local high schools.
Quality and Access: Expansion of School Based Pre-K Slots	N/A- New Strategy in 2012	\$100,000	This is a new strategy for SFY 2012. This strategy reflects the Regional Council's desire to support multiple options for accessing care in the region. (See Strategy Worksheet)
Professional Development: Conference Scholarships	\$20,000	\$16,000	After year one implementation, funding level to this strategy will be reduced. Initial funding levels were estimated and were found to be more than needed. Reduction of 18 percent from SFY 2011 to SFY 2012.
Coordination: Service Coordination and Collaboration	\$0	\$0 (on hold)	New strategy for SFY 2012. This strategy will remain unfunded until the strategy is further fleshed out. This strategy is not being submitted for board approval at this time.
Carry Forward:	Carry Forward in the SFY 2011 plan is \$184,672	Carry Forward in the SFY 2012 plan is \$100,618	The SFY 2012 Funding Plan includes carry forward funding which is intended for use in SFY 2013 and SFY 2014. The Gila River Regional Council estimates that \$51,370 will be needed to maintain level funding for strategies which they brought to scale in the SFY 2012 plan.

Section III

System Building Impact



The Gila River Regional Partnership Council began their FY2012 strategic planning process in August of 2010, with a discussion around scope and scale of their current strategies. Although the region's needs and assets report took additional time to approve, the Regional Council used the editing process to evaluate strategies based on whether they met the needs found in the 2010 Regional Needs and Assets Report. Foundational discussions around scope and scale coupled with strong understanding of the Needs and Assets Report laid the groundwork for when the Early Childhood Task Force Priorities, Tribal Consultation, SFY2010 end of year implementation and financial data became available. During the Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council's planning sessions, the Regional Council re-examined the strategies and existing services within the region. The Regional Council continues to work towards tying services together both within and across goal areas, as well as work towards identifying steps which are needed to reach target populations within strategies. After examination of the Regional Council's SFY 2011 strategies, it was determined that all strategies would remain in SFY 2012, but that additional funding would be added to increase the scope and reach of targeted strategies. Additionally, some allotments were not fully encumbered and thus the Regional Council decided to reduce those strategy allotments to better utilized funding.

The Gila River Regional Council determined that family support and access to high quality early childhood programs for all children continue to be the highest prioritized value for the region. Therefore the Regional Council has allocated most of their funding toward these two goal areas. The Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council firmly believes that family support is critical in assisting

parents to nurture their children and better prepare them for school and life. To help support parents, the Regional Council has allocated 52 percent of its funding towards family support strategies. Through the 2010 Needs and Assets Report, the Regional Council found that the Gila River Indian Community has one of the highest rates of teen pregnancy in Arizona; in some areas, unemployment reaches 46 percent; and approximately, 40 percent of children under six were not living with either parent but with another related person. Additionally there are a large number of grandparents raising grandchildren, but exact numbers remain elusive.

All of these risk factors coupled with the region's lack of early care capacity affirm the continued need for family support strategies in the region. The Gila River Regional Partnership Council has implemented four family support strategies which provide a continuum of services and supports, from intensive to targeted to universal. Home Visitation, Community-Based Parent Education, Native Language Early Literacy and Food Security strategies all work together to create a comprehensive family support network of services when combined with other, non-FTF funded family support services within the Community. Teen parent education and case management is targeted and more intensive with a smaller number of families participating. The Regional Council has been successful in building upon an existing evidence-based national teen parent education model at the local high schools which also works in collaboration with both Early Head Start and Quality First centers to provide child care to children of teen parents. Home visitation offers medium intensity parent education through in home family support services utilizing the Parents As Teachers, and Healthy Start models which expand on programs already operating within the Community. The Native Language Early Literacy program offers community and center based native language early literacy programs which incorporate children, teachers, parents, and grandparents in early literacy trainings. These training are aimed at promoting literacy rich environments both in the home and in centers. Lastly, families facing food insecurity have access to food boxes which are available through a grantee located within the Community. The food and nutrition strategy also offers linkages to other community based family support services so families have access to multiple supports.

The Gila River Regional Partnership Council has also been successful in building capacity of family support programs within the region through coordination and collaboration efforts. The Regional Council believes that in order for family support programs to be successful, programs must serve at least 50 percent of their target population. In the Gila River Indian Community, approximately 85 percent of children in the region are living at or below the federal poverty line and the Regional Partnership Council would like to serve 50 percent of these children through the region's combined FTF and non-FTF funded home visitation programs. To this end, in the spring of 2010 the Regional Council began convening family support partners to work towards family support coordination and collaboration goals. Through ongoing coordination and collaboration efforts it has been found that approximately 484 children and families are served by some type of home visitation program. This number represents almost 50 percent of target service numbers for the region. This collaborative partnership has allowed for development of a system for information sharing among programs, discussion and reduction of duplication of services and development of a shared mission for all home visitation programs within the region.

In conjunction with expanding support for families, the Regional Council understands that it is also critical to increase access, affordability, and quality of child care within the Community. Therefore, the Regional Council placed 45 percent of its allocation toward access, affordability and quality strategies. All of the strategies fall in different areas of the continuum of care and offer families culturally sensitive and diverse options to access care. In the Gila River region, approximately 15 percent of children 0 through 5 years old are in regulated child care and there are a high number of children on waiting lists. The Regional Council's early care and education strategies represent a weaving of four strategies to increase the capacity of early care. The first strategy is scholarships which are available to both teen and working parents. Second, is the expansion of quality pre- k experiences to children who have never been in early care through the region's summer transition to kindergarten strategy. By increasing funding to this strategy, the Regional Council will bring the strategy to scale in SFY 2012 allowing all four year old children to have the opportunity to participate in a summer transition to kindergarten program. The third strategy, expansion of pre-k slots, is new to this year's funding plan but it's anticipated that the strategy will make 15 school based pre-k slots available in SFY 2012. Finally, due to a 50 percent reduction in early care slots throughout the region, a significant number of children are now being cared for by family friends and neighbors. To this point, the Regional Council believes it is important to support the 85 percent of children in family, friend, and neighbor care in the region by enhancing the quality of care provided by those individuals through outreach and training. It is also anticipated that through cross regional collaboration with the South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council, family friend and neighbor trainings will continue to be expanded in SFY 2012 and SFY 2013 within the Gila River region. All strategies were evaluated based on whether they met the needs found in the 2010 Regional Needs and Assets Report. All four strategies build on each other by increasing quality, access and affordability to regulated early care settings, and encouraging Family Friend and Neighbor providers to move toward licensing.

To further build the capacity of the early care and education system for young children, the Regional Council created educational opportunities for early childhood, and health professionals, as well as educational opportunities for parents and grandparents. The Council's native language enrichment and conference strategies are aimed at capacity building both for professionals and parents in the Community. The third strategy in this goal area increases capacity of early care staff through the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship program. Through this combination of inter-related strategies, the Regional Council will not only build a higher quality, stable and more capable workforce, but will also enhance parenting knowledge and skills.

After thoughtful examination of the region's health system, the Regional Council found many services exist to support young children. Hospitals in the region offer a continuum of care beginning with prenatal services, and follow up care, to pediatric service offered at a new pediatric clinic located within the region. Pediatric services include ongoing care through pediatric doctors and pediatric dentists, who coordinate care and needed screenings and immunizations. The pediatric clinic also collaborates with the region's public health nursing program to offer home visitation for families needing more intensive support services.

Although Gila River Health Care offers a wide range of services to the region, a lack of developmental pediatrician providers still exists, forcing families to travel outside the region for specialty care post screenings and referrals as necessary for ongoing health care. Many families report feeling overwhelmed and powerless when navigating the greater health care system which typically leads to a failure to follow through with appointments and needed services. Families are faced with added challenges when coordinating health care services for children with complex needs.

To address these concerns and build on existing health services within the region, the Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council plans to partner with Gila River Health Care to recruit a developmental pediatrician to the region. This strategy builds on existing collaboration among Gila River Health Care, Phoenix Indian Medical Center (PIMC) and Phoenix Children's Hospital (PCH). Currently, PIMC and PCH are partnering on a program which encourages specialty pediatricians to work in tribal regions of Arizona. Once a provider is successfully recruited, he or she will be able to serve the needs of 90 percent of the target population.

The Regional Council hopes to empower and support families and children through family support, access and affordability, professional development, and health strategies which provide a continuum of care across goals and are contingent upon family needs. As the Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council works on building a system around early childhood development and health, the Regional Council believes two items are key for both program and system building to be successful in the region. First, the Regional Council believed reaching at least 50 percent of target populations over the course of three years was critically important. Second, the Regional Partnership Council was aware of the need to begin communication and collaboration across programs to start the process of system building thus increasing support for families who fall in different levels of the service delivery model. Actualizing this type of collaboration and participation is not easy. To this end, an FTF Family Support Consortium was created in January of 2010. The group meets monthly and brings home visitation and parent education programs together. The intent of the Consortium is to increase understanding of services offered by programs, reduce duplication of services, and increase collaboration through shared vision. In the SFY 2012 funding plan, the Gila River Regional Partnership Council has created a coordination of services strategy which is still under development. It is unclear what this strategy will encompass but the Regional Council would like to close gaps in services for children through increased coordination and collaboration efforts. This strategy is being fleshed out and will be brought to the State Board in the coming months.

Appendix
STRATEGY WORKSHEET

Strategy Name: Expansion School Based Pre-K Slots

Expand Pre-K Education slots for children ages 3-5, enhancing access to high quality care and education for at-risk children who are most likely to benefit from such experiences.

Strategy Description:

The Regional Needs and Assets Report, key informant interviews with community stakeholders and parents in the Gila River Indian Community indicate an increased need for expanding quality early childhood education classrooms to better prepare children for success in school. Waiting lists of over 100 eligible children are reported throughout the region's Bureau of Indian Education Schools. Evidence also suggests a need to better support education among young children in the region. One assessment that is used frequently across Arizona schools - the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) – shows that many children in the region may be behind in literacy acquisition when they enter Kindergarten.

Increasing access to high quality early education is an effective strategy for better preparing children for school. Such efforts are particularly effective among low income minority children, including Hispanic and African-American children. For example, studies conducted of the Chicago Child-Parent Centers (CPC) program - a large scale, high quality, publicly funded half-day early care and education program that has been operating for over 30 years - found that the program had a range of meaningful effects, including:

- Advantages in reading achievement scores as late as age 14
- Lower likelihood of retention in grade by age 15
- Reduced use of special education through age 18
- Lower incidence of child abuse and neglect from ages 4 to 17
- Lower likelihood of involvement in the juvenile justice system by age 18
- Greater likelihood of high school completion by age 20

This strategy would:

- Increase the number of quality early childhood education slots or classrooms in the region or allow half-day programs to expand to full day
- Target areas within the region where children may most benefit from the expansion of current capacity, including (but not limited to) areas where families reside and enrollment in quality early care and education programs is limited.

Early Childhood Education classrooms must have an educational program designed to meet the Arizona State Early Learning Standards. Programs such as Department of Economic Security (DES), Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) or Federal Head Start programs must be the first revenue stream with this program providing access to children ineligible for these programs or who have been on waiting lists for these programs. Programs must be accredited, or enrolled or committed to enrolling in QIRS. Funded entities would also be required to demonstrate the use of other sources of funding—so that FTF grant monies are

not the sole funding source. The proposed slots would serve families at 200 percent or below the federal poverty level.

¹The DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Literacy Skills) is used to identify children's reading skills upon entry to school and to measure their reading progress throughout the year

² *The Economics of Investing in Universal Preschool Education in California* (2005). Lynn A. Karoly, James H. Bigelow. Rand Corporation: Santa Monica, California.

Goal Area:

Goal #3: FTF will increase availability and affordability of early care and education settings.

Goal #1: FTF will improve access to quality early care and education programs and settings.

Key Measure/s:

- Current cost of early care and education for families as a proportion of the median income for a family of four
- Total number of children enrolled and vacancies in regulated early care and education programs as a proportion of total population birth to age five

Target Population:

Children whose families have incomes less than 200percent of poverty, who are not currently participating in early childhood education through an existing subsidy program or are on a waiting list for such programs. For families with incomes over 100percent parents may be required to pay for a portion of the tuition on a sliding scale basis to be determined.

	units	SFY 2011	SFY 2012	SFY 2013
Regional Council Target Service Numbers	Total number of FTF funded Pre-K students	0	15	To Be Determined in SFY 2013
	Total number of Public/BIA school sites receiving support	0	1	To Be Determined in SFY 2013

Performance Measures:

1. Total number of children receiving early education services.
2. Percent of families that reported satisfaction with early education services.
3. Increase in school readiness score using standardized screening tool.
4. Percent of families showing increases in parenting knowledge and skill

SFY 2011 Expenditure Plan for Proposed Strategy	
TOTAL ALLOTTMENT for proposed strategy	\$ 100,000
Budget Justification/Estimates of Costs: The estimates below are based on providing the total cost of pre-kindergarten in an average pre-kindergarten in the region. Using sliding scales and expanding on other funding sources will increase the number of children served by the program. Cost estimates for a five day, five hours a day program is estimated at approximately \$5,000 per child based on 42 weeks program (Based on the normal public school year.) Each classroom would serve 15 children with a teacher and assistant. Additional expenses including classroom supplies, transportation, and maintenance, at approximately \$25,000 per year.	